

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a novel lymphocyte inhibitory receptor termed BTLA which is expressed on both T and B cells, and identifies B7 family member B7x as interacting with BTLA to  
5 attenuate lymphocyte activity. Methods and compositions for modulating BTLA-mediated negative signaling and interfering with the interaction of BTLA and B7x for therapeutic, diagnostic and research purposes are also provided.